

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-40 are presently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2, 12-20, 22-29 and 39 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 3 is hereby amended, and claims 6, 7 and 41 are cancelled via this Amendment. Claim 4 was previously cancelled.

The Examiner rejects claims 3, 5-7, 30-32, 34, 37 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Corvasce (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,726) in view of Halasa (EP 985,554), Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 4,523,618) and Wideman (U.S. Patent No. 5,089,563).

As recited in amended claim 3, the conjugated diene based elastic polymer in the present invention is characterized by the structural elements of (A) at least one of SBR or modified SBR, (B) a weight-average molecular weight (Mw) of 300,000 to 700,000, and (C) a content of a vinyl linkage of 40 to 65% in conjugated diene units.

An object of the present invention is to provide a safety pneumatic tire that simultaneously exhibits both excellent durability during driving under a damaged condition (run flat durability) and excellent ride comfort under a condition of normal internal pressure (ride comfort).

The cited references nowhere teach or suggest the structural components (A) and (C) in combination defined in the presently claimed invention. According to the present invention, a

rubber composition, containing 40% or more of the conjugated diene elastic polymer imparted with all of the elements (A), (B) and (C), exhibits a high ratio of minimum value of dynamic storage modulus at 200 to 250°C to dynamic storage modulus at 50°C as shown in Table 9 and, for that reason, when the rubber composition is used in a side reinforcement layer and/or bead-filler, it becomes possible to maintain and improve ride comfort and also to enhance run flat durability to a great extent.

The presently claimed invention is able to achieve, for the first time, the above-mentioned objects/effects, i.e., a tire capable of maintaining and improving the ride comfort of a tire as well as improving, to an extremely high level, run flat durability. As stated above, none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-mentioned combination of structural elements (A), (B) and (C) defined in the present invention.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Gruskin", written over a horizontal line.

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